

✓ "EL DORADO"

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MELODRAMA

by

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In the "Eldorado" a famous dancing house of Granada, SIBILLA is the dancer most beloved by the public. Nevertheless, she sees in her art only a consolation and in her profession only the means to provide for her needs, and those of her son whom she had some time ago by Estiria; the latter is rich now, and, in spite of his old promises of marriage, leaves with great cynism Sibilla in misery and his son laid up with sickness. In vain she has entreated; insensible and vain, he only thinks of marrying his daughter ILIANA to the rich old duque d'ORMUZ. The young girl must obey, in spite of her attachment for HEDWICK, a young Swedish painter who came with his mother to study Spanish costumes. SIBILLA who is engaged by him as model, has surprised the meetings of the young couple in the celebrated palace of Alhambra.

That evening, as the child grows worse, the mother resorts to the extreme expedient of going to Estiria's home, who is giving an evening party to celebrate the engagement of ILIANA, but the valets throw the poor woman out. Remembering then that the young people had decided to see each other for the last time at nightfall, in the Alhambra, she rushes there, blind with grief, fighting her way through the procession and dancing crowds, for, the city is celebrating. In the palace, she follows the couple from hall to hall.....till, at last, she locks them in a tower in which they had entered.

The night goes by. HEDWICK has worn himself out in useless efforts; they were indeed prisoners. At Estiria's home, the scandal broke out; the guests have deserted the drawing-rooms where ILIANA had been expected in vain. SIBILLA's child is at his worst. The dancer in the morning, goes to the Alhambra; releases surreptitiously the young couple and stations herself at the usual place where each morning she waits for the painter; but, here they come; ILIANA is exhausted after so many exotions.....SIBILLA offers the "EL ELDORADO" as a refuge.

There she will bring brother and sister together and reveal to the latter her sad history. Meanwhile, HEDWICK has called upon Estiria, who does not care to listen to his reasons and who, realizing that ILIANA is at SIBILLA's, sees everything lost, and fights with HEDWICK. After the victory of the young man, the rage affects his brain, and he becomes insane.

HADWICK comes back to seek ILIANA; they come to a great decision; he will take her to the mountain, to his mother, together with the dancer's child who might recover his health.

And at night, amid the daily merry-making, SIBILLA dances before the eager eyes of everyone, close to the lust of the clowns; but stirred to revolt by her immense sorrow, and realizing that she would be forever an obstacle to the career of her son amid his new family, after the dance, behind the rear curtain, she stabs herself.....

E N D

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